UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

*Official Records*

GENERAL COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 8 October 1996
at 9.15 a.m.
New York

# SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RAZALI
(President of the General Assembly

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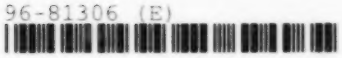

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Portugal, Samoa, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/51/231)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request by a number of countries for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the International Seabed Authority", contained in document A/51/231. The representative of Jamaica had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Miss Durrant (Jamaica) took a place at the Committee table.

3. Miss DURRANT (Jamaica) revised the title of the additional item to read "Observer status for the International Seabed Authority in the General Assembly". The International Seabed Authority had been vested with a task of vital importance to all States Members of the United Nations. It was the organization through which States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea organized and controlled activities in the international seabed area, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area. The structure and initial functions of the Authority were indicated in the explanatory memorandum (A/51/231, annex).

4. The Authority was one of the most widely subscribed intergovernmental organizations, with some 106 States parties. Its institutional framework had been put in place following the recent election of a Secretary-General, Council and President. The granting of observer status to the International Seabed Authority in the General Assembly would enable it to participate in relevant deliberations and enrich the understanding of the Law of the Sea and all ocean affairs matters that came before the General Assembly.

5. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item, as orally revised, in the agenda.

6. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

7. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) asked the Chairman to provide more information about the Credentials Committee, specifically the role of the President of the General Assembly and when the Credentials Committee would meet.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that the Credentials Committee would meet the following Friday, 11 October 1996. The Credentials Committee was not answerable to the President of the General Assembly although it was supposed to assist in the running of the General Assembly. The President of the General Assembly had no say in the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, which met if there was a challenge to the credentials of any delegation during sessions of the General Assembly. Nor did the President of the General Assembly have any supervisory powers over the Credentials Committee.

The meeting rose at 9.35 a.m.